

The Office Action identifies several objections to the drawings. Applicants respectfully contend that the various amendments to the specification and to the claims render these objections moot.

The Office Action further identifies a number of objections under Section 112, relative to terminology in the abstract and the use of headings. Via this amendment applicants have inserted headings into the specification, amended the abstract and made a number of other amendments to the specification for clarification purposes.

Claims 5-12 and 13-18 were rejected under Section 112, based on the view set forth in the Office Action that the specification fails to meet the written description requirement and the enablement requirement. In view of applicant's cancellation of claims 12-18, this rejection has to some extent been rendered moot. Nevertheless, relative to claims 5-11, applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the specification and the amendments to the claims overcome this rejection. More specifically, applicants respectfully assert that the specification does sufficiently teach those skilled in this art the manner in which combustion air via line 14 mixes in the second furnace with exhaust gas from the first furnace, the two furnaces operatively connected via a waste gas flue 12.

Claims 1-18 were further rejected under Section 112 for indefiniteness. Again, applicants note that claims 12-18 have been cancelled, therefore the rejection is moot relative to those claims. Relative to claims 1-11, applicants respectfully contend that these amended claims are sufficiently definite under Section 112.

The Office Action identifies two separate lack of novelty rejections of claim 12, under Section 102, based on Ban and Goff et al '537. The Office Action further identifies an

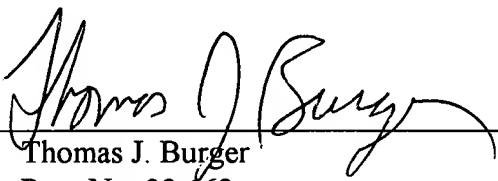
obviousness rejection of claims 12-18 under Section 103, based on McRee, Jr. These rejections are rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 12-18.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the indication in the Office Action that claims 1-4 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, and that claims 5-11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the indefinite rejection under Section 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully submit that the foregoing amendments to claims 1-11 do in fact eliminate and/or render moot all of these various rejections or objections under Section 112. Applicants note that the substance of claims 3 and 4 is identical, with only the dependencies being different. This amendment clarifies claims 3 and 4.

Based on the amendments to the specification, the amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that remaining claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance, and applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed without further delay.

Respectfully submitted,

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